

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph on page 3, lines 8-20 with the following:

The raised peripheral edge 30 of the illustrated embodiment preferably has an irregular shape that is best seen from the top view of FIG. 1. For example, at least one portion 32 of the edge 30 is curved, while another portion 34 is straight or not curved. This illustrates a departure from the conventional pet mat having a raised peripheral edge, which is usually bowl-shaped or of another standard geometric configuration. In addition, the curved portion 32 approximately traces at least one aspect of a decorative image 70 embossed or imprinted on the upper surface 20 of the mat 10. In the illustrated embodiment, such image 70 is a pair of paw prints 72, 74 (although other ornamental designs are contemplated) comprising a plurality of oval digit locations 76, each digit outline 76 containing within a pair of bumps 40. The “palm” portion 78 of each paw print is preferably circular and may function as a location guide for a pet bowl (see FIG. 7). However, as shown in FIGS. 4-6, a pet bowl may be placed anywhere on the mat and not only within the “palm” portions ~~[[74]]~~ 78.